

Northern and Southern Dorset Local Action Groups

# LEADER CLLD in Dorset 2014 to 2020

A Dozen Case Studies

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2020

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The European  
Agricultural Fund for  
Rural Development:  
Europe investing in  
rural areas



**Northern  
Dorset**  
LOCAL ACTION GROUP



**Southern  
Dorset**  
LOCAL ACTION GROUP

## **Background to the LEADER Programme**

### **What is LEADER?**

LEADER is a proven method of delivering grants into rural areas. Community Led Local Development (CLLD) is a bottom-up, area-based approach centred on a local partnership – decisions about funding are made by local people for local people – be they individuals, or representatives of businesses or communities. Funded projects need to meet local need as identified in a Local Development Strategy.

### **LEADER in Dorset**

From 2000 Dorset benefitted from three successful LEADER programmes, each delivered by community led Local Action Groups:

- LEADER + 2000-2006 – Chalk and Cheese Local Action Group
- LEADER 2007–2013 – Chalk and Cheese and Sowing Seeds Local Action Groups
- LEADER 2014-2020 - Northern Dorset and Southern Dorset Local Action Groups

The funding comes from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and is delivered by delegated Local Action Groups across all member states. In England the funding is part of the Rural Development Programme, administered by Defra and the Rural Payments Agency. Grants are awarded to projects that meet both national and local objectives for the programme; Local Action Group members select projects based on their strength of fit to these priorities.

### **This LEADER Programme – 2014 to 2020**

There are two Local Action Groups in Dorset, covering a rural population of 168,305 residents. Southern Dorset and Northern Dorset Local Action Groups were delegated to deliver the programme through their accountable body Dorset Council. LAG members are drawn from all walks of life, as individuals with an interest in their local area, as members of a partnership or sector group or elected representatives of a local council. It is the unique feature and the strength of the LEADER process that LAG members bring local knowledge to the decision-making table.

In England LEADER grants were for

1. increasing farm productivity
2. supporting micro and small businesses and farm diversification
3. boosting rural tourism

4. providing rural services
5. providing cultural and heritage activity and
6. increasing forestry productivity

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Photographs: Dorset LEADER, Steve Wallis, Nicci Brown, Gaggles of Geese / Simon Colquhoun, Evans & Pearce Ltd, Steve Keenan

## Northern Dorset Local Action Group

### What the LAG hoped to fund

The LAG's theme was 'Making Connections'; improving the links and networks for local products, the connections between businesses; communities and the wider rural economy; and physical links between places, tourism providers and opportunities to extend visitor stays in the area.

The LAG awarded £1.49 million in grants to 36 projects from Sherborne in the west of the county to Farnham in the east. The average grant was over £40K and almost £3 million was invested in the projects overall.

### Project 1: LEADER gives an Udder chance



BACK in 2005, Brian and Jane Down opened a small complementary business to their dairy farm. With the help of a grant from an earlier version of LEADER, the Udder Farm shop and café in East Stour took off spectacularly.

Within three years, the couple had built on a separate café, doubling to 48 covers: today, 65 squeeze in. “We are turning so many people away,” says Brian. The Down family have been dairy farmers in East Stour since 1938. But eventually the couple decided that being able to set prices in the shop was proving to be more reliable than volatile milk prices.

The dairy herd has gone but the farm supplies beef and lamb: pork comes from the village farm of Brian’s uncle.

The shop has grown over the years: the butchery expanded, a fish stall added and an extension built to house Cook ready meals. Some 48 full and part time staff now work at The Udder.

Applicant: The Udder Farm Shop Ltd | Project name: The Udder Extension  
Grant £111K | LEADER Priority 2

***Why the Northern Dorset LAG funded this project:***

*Plans for future growth ✓ Creates Jobs ✓ Local products ✓ Innovative ✓  
Benefits to the wider rural economy ✓ Contributes to year-round tourism ✓*

But further expansion of the cafe was on the menu, when a chance meeting with Dorset LEADER programme manager Sarah Harbige accelerated plans.

An application to build a restaurant for 120, increasing local produce sales and creating at 12 jobs, qualified for a 40% grant under the priority of rural business.

Work began in September and will finish by December. The café will revert to a coffee shop, with the restaurant serving a full menu, with evening events and occasional theme nights also held. “With LEADER’s support, this has brought forward the project by two or three years,” says Brian.

## **Project 2 Supporting furniture skills in Sturminster**

THE day before I met James Tyler, his firm had completed a job for Sherborne Boys School: 116 pieces of furniture, mainly study tables with leather inlays, solid oak chairs and stools. Quite a job - and quite an operation.

He talked as we walked his workshops in Sturminster Newton, James pointing out two cupboards of French walnut and several tables in European oak, all nearing completion. “That’s a job for Burberry,” he gestures at another piece.



This is Litton Furniture, a business set up in 1962 by cabinet maker Paul Litton, who also built sailing boats next door. Terence Conran bought the business in 2007, with a philosophy of only using sustainable woods.

It was an approach that James empathised with. He learned his trade working with his father Geoffrey at Tyler Hardwoods in Wiltshire. “We specialised in home-grown timbers in Wiltshire and Dorset - ash, oak, cherry...”

He took over the running of Litton in 2015 and works with several London-based, high-end customers, including Burberry and Linley: Litton does not have its own shop or website. The business is growing, with old and new customers. “Now we need to meet growing demand,” he says of the £46,000 LEADER grant he received to buy three specialist pieces of machinery. “The process of getting a grant started two years ago when we were looking to relocate to bigger premises. We couldn’t find the right space so we stayed here: we want to make things work better.”

The machinery – a flexible saw, spindle moulder and four-sided planer – will make processes faster, safer, quieter while being more flexible and precise. It also means that everything can be done in-house, without contracting out piece work, or bringing in already tooled parts.

Applicant: Litton Furniture Ltd | Project name: Secure Future  
Grant £46K | LEADER Priority 2

***Why the Northern Dorset LAG funded this project:***

*Plans for future growth ✓ Local products ✓ Creates Jobs ✓ Innovative ✓ Benefits to the wider rural economy ✓*

“It will speed up everything so that we can take on more work, which we can’t deliver at this time.” It also means adding up to five more staff, a mix of experience and apprentice, to the 14 highly skilled people James already has.

The parts were delivered in early December: the future of skilled furniture making in Dorset is in safe hands.

### **Project 3 Sorting the wheat from the chaff**



It was the banning of a chemical used in seed production that was to lead to an agricultural revolution on the north Dorset border.

It may look unprepossessing, but this remarkable mobile machine is able to analyse grain and reject contamination by shape, colour and size. “It’s a brand new application,” says Rob White, managing director of Evans and Pearce at Anchor Farm in Trent, near Sherborne.

The bespoke machine took 10 months to build on the back of an HGV lorry. Whereas grain processors are normally monochrome, this is colour. And being mobile, it’s the only one of its kind in the UK.

The £50,000 LEADER grant was the catalyst, said Rob. “That and the fact that a chemical we had used for 20 years in seed production was banned, which meant us having to find another income stream.”



Applicant: Evans & Pearce Ltd | Project name: Optical Sorter  
Grant £50K | LEADER Priority 2

***Why the Northern Dorset LAG funded this project:***

*Plans for future growth ✓ Creates Jobs ✓ Innovative ✓ Benefits to the wider rural economy ✓*

The investment has proved inspired. In tests, the sorter was able to recognise and separate ergot, a fungus, from the ear of wheat. It spots oats in seed wheat, despite being similar in size; has removed poppy seed pods from milling wheat, and immature green wheat from barley destined for seed. Otherwise, it would have gone to animal feed.

His ethos is to give farmers more from their harvested crop. With this sorter, he has been surprised at the volume of work processing seed. “We thought it would be more about crops destined for the food chain.”

The machine will be busiest over winter, with customers including large arable farmers, millers and growers of valuable Einkorn wheat. “When we turn up it means something has not gone to plan,” laughed Rob.

### **Blandford is buzzing**



THREE projects in the town benefitted from LEADER grants, greatly enhancing Blandford’s tourism appeal and generating local interest in its heritage.

The town museum is now open year-round, the old railway arches have been restored, as has a war memorial, thanks to a total of £81,000 grants. “It just happened – we all applied separately but they are all linked,” said Blandford Civic Society secretary Nicci Brown.

“It’s huge in terms of cultural heritage. It will benefit tourism and give people a fuller experience when they get here, while making local people more aware of their heritage.”



Blandford benefits from good connections: the North Dorset Trailway, based on the old Somerset & Dorset rail line, runs through the town. And the White Hart Link, a 50-mile walking route linking five North Dorset towns, has also recently been completed.

With the museum eyeing up an adjoining building for an art gallery and café, things are on the move in Blandford...

#### **Project 4 Dressing up Damory Street**

WHEN Blandford Secondary School merged and moved from Damory Street in 1968, it took more than just desks and pupils. The wrought iron gates of the school entrance went too, as did two plaques on either side of the gates.

The plaques contained the names of pupils and teachers who died in WW1, and were relocated to the new Upper School in Milldown Road. Fair enough. But for 50 years, all that was left in Damory Street was a neglected brick arch.



Fast forward to July 2019, and a service of commemoration marked Blandford Civic Society's contribution to the Centenary. The arch had been repaired and repointed, missing stonework replaced – and replicas of the plaques installed, all covered by a LEADER grant.

The project has been complemented by work on an adjoining plot of land, the town's burial ground for 50 years in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Both the grounds and arch have new information boards detailing their history.

Civic Society chairman Terence Dear described the July ceremony as “the end of the beginning” in enhancing Damory Street, a corner of Blandford that has deteriorated over the years.

Applicant: Blandford Forum Civic Society | Project name: Damory Street Enhancement  
Grant £15K | LEADER Priority 5

**Why the Northern Dorset LAG funded this project:**

*Contributes to a year-round tourism offer ✓ Benefits to the wider rural economy ✓*

## Project 5 Meet me under the arches

It must have been spectacular when the railway viaduct in Blandford was blown up in 1978. It was a planned explosion: there had been no need for the flood arches once the Somerset & Dorset line closed in 1969.



Curiously, the two arches immediately adjacent to the River Stour remained, presumably to avoid dumping hundreds of tons of brick and stone into the river. And there they have stayed, gradually decaying for 50 years.

Step forward the Blandford Railway Arches Trust, a group of enthusiasts who staved off demolition and embarked on a project to conserve, repair, make safe and open up the arches as a focal point of Blandford's rail history.

Applicant: Blandford Forum Town Council | Project name: Meet me at the Arches  
Grant £46,606 | LEADER Priority 5

**Why the Northern Dorset LAG funded this project:**

*Contributes to a year-round tourism offer ✓ Benefits to the wider rural economy ✓*

With a LEADER grant, drainage and repair work has been completed. An interpretation board has been added (with touch technology to 'hear' a passing train and birdsong) and stairs to the top will be in place in time for an official opening on October 20.

A jazz night has already been held under the arches and plays staged: ideas for other events under or on top the arches are welcomed. “We are bringing the arches back into use,” says Nicci Brown, secretary of Blandford Civic Society.

### **Project 6 Blandford Museum: Open all hours**

THIS is a museum moving with the times. A LEADER grant was a catalyst, which provided finance to introduce controlled heating and LED lighting which, in turn, has allowed the museum to open year-round.

The improved environmental conditions, in turn, has persuaded institutions such as Dorset County Museum to loan items, knowing they will be safe from extremes of temperature, humidity – and safety, with CCTV installed.



The LEADER grant took the museum “up one stage” says Sylvia. The upstairs space was ‘dark, cold and clammy’ – now it is insulated, lit and revamped. Touch screens aid information.

Since work was completed in March 2019, an Alfred Stevens fireplace is among exhibits loaned for the first time. Artists too, have allowed work to be exhibited: acclaimed Swanage artist Brian Graham has a display throughout October.

Now museum director Dr Sylvia Hixon Andrews has her sights set on Roman artefacts collected by Henry Durden, a 19<sup>th</sup> century Blandford grocer/curator whose collection was sold to the British Museum. “This should be the home of the Roman-British collection: it all comes from Hod Hill.”

Progress continues. The museum is part of the Rural Resilience Programme, a Heritage Lottery programme which is training 16 museums in the south-west in strategic fundraising, finance, marketing and business planning.

The 50 museum volunteers benefit and are being encouraged to take part responsibility for different museum specialisms. One may know more about archaeology, another about digital display or Blandford architecture.

Applicant: Blandford Forum Museum | Project name: Enhancing Sustainability and Increasing Tourism  
Grant £20K | LEADER Priority 3

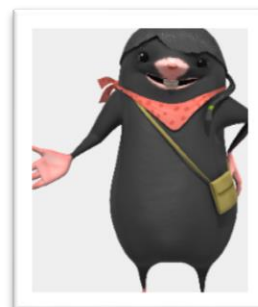
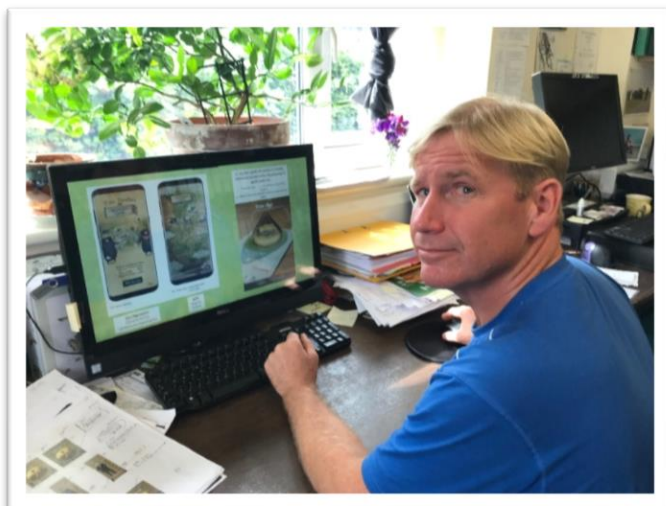
***Why the Northern Dorset LAG funded this project:***

*Contributes to a year-round tourism offer ✓ Strengthens rural services ✓ Plans for future growth ✓ Innovative ✓ Benefits to the wider rural economy ✓*

More visitors, resulting in increased spend in the town, are projected to rise from 7,000 to 10,000 annually – the museum is now open 11 months of the year. A touch screen visitor survey already gives better demographic insights – there have been a lot of Dutch and German visitors this year.

But Sylvia isn't resting on laurels. The museum building is owned by local charity William Williams, who also own an empty two-storey house next door – ideal for an art gallery and café, she says. Watch this space....

### **Project 7 Bringing the Cranborne Chase alive**



“THE Dorset cursus pre-dates Stonehenge and is the biggest Neolithic site in the UK....” says Roger Goulding “...and no-one knows about it.”

Roger is heritage consultant to Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), a haunting landscape of 550 scheduled monuments, Iron Age camps, Roman villas, royal hunting grounds and far more.

But the Chase is overlooked, he says and suffers from a lack of identity - unlike other AONBs such as The Cotswolds.

That has changed, with a £131,856 LEADER grant paying for the design and development of a Time Traveller app to help bring the Chase alive.

The app features Archie and Olivia, two animated archaeological moles, and envisages the “lumps and barrows” of the Chase as villages, defences and burial grounds using augmented reality.

Actors play characters such as Thomas Hardy and smuggler Isaac Gulliver who appear in differing locations to tell their stories. An animation of a ghost rider and 3D scans of objects found on the Chase add to the bigger picture.

Some 12 locations are featured, split between country and the gateway towns of Shaftesbury, Wimborne and Blandford. “The whole purpose is to push people around to explore the Chase and learn more,” says Roger. An extra 15,000 visitors are projected in the next three years.

Applicant: Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty | Project name: Time Traveller App on the Chase  
Grant £131K LEADER Priority 5

***Why the LAG funded this project:***

The app is live in Spring 2020 and will be followed by 10 biodiversity and habitat projects in the AONB, thanks to a £1.7m grant by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Said Roger: “The app gave the Heritage Lottery an idea of the level of thought and innovation going on here. Without the LEADER money, it wouldn’t have been possible to get the bigger project off the ground.

“Now we are looking to get everyone interested in the remarkable cultural and literary connections of Cranborne Chase. Greater appreciation, understanding and use of these sites will lead to enhanced management and protection, as they are valued more highly by their owners and the local communities.”



## Project 8 Not one but two village halls

WHEN Motcombe received its first LEADER grant, to screen live theatre and concerts in the Village Hall, it threw up an interesting fact. “The opera crowd drink a lot more than the ballet people,” reveals David Scully, a Hall trustee.

But not half as much as the crowd that watched a Take That concert streamed live to the Hall. “We took over £1,000 in the bar that night,” said David. “And it only seats 90.”



Motcombe is a village of 1,600, and the live events have been well supported: the ticket income is a sustainable revenue source that goes toward the running costs of the Hall. The bar profits also go to the community-owned village shop.

The programme also reveals other insights: A) it is locals who account for 60% of tickets and B) “There are an extraordinary number of people who buy one ticket,” said David, which suggests the shows are beneficial for social inclusion.

From the shop to the live events and the 28 organisations that use the Hall, social enterprise is inherent in helping the village thrive. In fact, so much happens in Motcombe that it applied, successfully, for another LEADER grant to build a second Hall.

Opened in June 2019, to coincide with the village fete, the Clock Hall sits close to but separate from the original 90-year-old Hall. So if *Tosca* is live in one, the bridge club can play in the other, without disruption.

The increased revenue in hire fees and events means that the annual turnover is £56,000 from the two halls. That goes towards the upkeep and cleaning plus future projects, which include a café that would be run by the village shop.

“We couldn’t have done it without a grant: we don’t have the cash,” said David. “But we were chock-a-block - and the take-up of the new hall has been at the top end of expectations.”

“Every morning there is a women’s exercise group. We could have 10 halls and I think there would still be an exercise group every morning.”

A double slice of LEADER

Applicant: The Trustees of Motcombe Memorial Hall |

Slice 1 - Live Event Cinema | Grant £9K | LEADER Priority 4

Slice 2 – New Hall Facilities | Grant £130K | LEADER Priority 4

***Why the Northern Dorset LAG funded these projects:***

*Plans for future growth ✓ Innovative ✓ Strengthens rural services ✓ Benefits to the wider rural economy ✓ Contributes to a year-round tourism offer ✓*

## **Southern Dorset Local Action Group**

### **What the LAG was looking for**

The LAG’s theme was ‘Investing in Rural Dorset’ with the aim to sustain a high quality of life in the LAG area with opportunities for growth and employment alongside social and environmental benefits.

The LAG awarded £1.41 million in grants to 32 projects from Lyme Regis in the west of the county to Swanage in the east. The average grant was over £44K and almost £3 million was invested in the projects overall.

### **Project 9 Organic and paid for growth on the farm**

ALL being well, the organic milk herd at Eweleaze Dairy will this winter be housed in a new steel-framed building with mattresses to calm the cows and increase yields. Year-round, the 320 cattle will also be undercover to feed before milking, with rubber matting there to reduce injuries and stress.



JW & P Marsh & Son is a fourth-generation family partnership that has been farming for nearly 100 years. But their dairy at Martinstown was old, some parts more than 50 years, and dotted about Manor Farm.

“We’ve completely rebuilt the whole dairy,” said Amanda Marsh, who runs the farm with husband Noel and son Thomas. “We tried to make-do and mend, but you run out of space. The buildings were from the 1970s – and cows have got bigger since then!”



The LEADER programme would not replace like for like – as in buildings, milking parlour and slurry lagoon – but it would invest in the new technology and modernisation, that has helped the family completely revitalise the farm.

The total project cost was £708,667: the LEADER grant was £133,667, which included items such as a plate cooler to reduce milk cooling costs. The family also separately bought an ice builder to further cool milk before it goes into the bulk tank – the electricity savings have been considerable.

More efficient pumps, an automatic foot bath, shedding gates and a system which reads ear tags and records the individual data of each cow’s yield have all been introduced.

It is hoped that the newly modernised farm will increase milk yields by at least 10%, while improving the quality of the milk which, in turn, increases the price paid by their buyer, Müller.

“Without the grant, we wouldn’t have been able to get some of the things we now have, the hi-tech and energy savvy things,” said Amanda. “It has been a huge relief.”

Applicant: JW & P Marsh and Son | Project name: Eweleaze Dairy Modernisation  
Grant £53K | LEADER Priority 1

**Why the Southern Dorset LAG funded this project:**  
*Plans for future growth ✓ Innovative ✓*

## Project 10 The importance of a village pub

When The Gaggle of Geese pub closed in 2015, after a period of decline, the villagers of Buckland Newton moved to list it as a community asset. A pub, after all, is a social hub: all it needed was someone to realise its potential.

Enter Simon and Sarah Colquhoun in summer 2017. The couple had run a pub in Brighton for five years but, with a young child and dog, wanted somewhere quieter with space and a school.



After a big refurb, a clearance of five acres of land (with help from the village) and a successful application to LEADER to buy two shepherd's huts, the pub re-opened in May 2018.

The bespoke huts were built by Plankbridge in nearby Piddlehinton: Bumble sleeps four, while ensuite Birdie has one double. Both have power and water, with a separate shower/toilet cabin shared with campers (room for 16 tents).

The couple projected that the huts would be occupied eight nights in any one month: Bumble was full every night in August. In all, 450 bookings for the huts and camping, a huge success in the first year of operation, as most visitors will also eat and drink in the pub.

“We had to increase bar staffing to keep up with demand,” says Simon. “We couldn’t have done this without a grant because of cashflow. We had to spend so much on the refurb that without a grant, it would have been just camping.”

So, more employment created, as well as an excellent relationship built with the community. The village fete was held at the pub, as will bonfire night, while there is a series of weekly events.

Applicant: Hart and Hops Ltd | Project name: Shepherd Huts & Glamping  
Grant £24K | LEADER Priority 2

***Why the Southern Dorset LAG funded this project:***

*Plans for future growth ✓ Strengthens rural services ✓ Contributes to a year-round tourism offer ✓ Innovative ✓ Creates Jobs ✓ Benefits to the wider rural economy ✓ Local products ✓*

A pizza and barbecue hut have been built, along with a mobile bar. Skittles season has started, and a village juice and cider will be pressed in the orchard this autumn. There are quiz and bingo nights and the Saturday night live band and barbecue has proved particularly popular.

It’s a win-win for the couple and community, with the village shop also benefitting. Two families have separately booked both huts and campsite for weekends next year, walkers have found the pub, as have Londoners stopping en route to/from Cornwall. Buckland Newton has its heart back.

## **Project 11 Coals to Buckland Newton**



IT IS thought that the opening of the Bristol-Weymouth rail line in 1865 was the catalyst for building a parish-wide coal store in Buckland Newton in 1871. The coal would have been

unloaded at Yetminster station and transported the nine miles to the village by horse and cart.

The store was on the crossroads, a single room with a wide entrance and one small, high window at either end. The walls were three bricks thick and supported by buttresses, due to the weight of the coal.

With the advent of road transport and domestic deliveries, the store became redundant. It was a reading room for a while. Now, thanks to a LEADER grant and the enthusiasm of the community, it has been spruced up, extended, skylights and a loo added and turned into the Parish Pavilion (complete with sign from village farmworker Eric Mitchell, 80).

The pavilion sits on a field owned by the village for 300 years. Now the trick is to reform cricket and football teams, encourage visiting teams and make full use of the pavilion (in addition to parish council and small meetings).

It's just another challenge for a thriving community of 600. When the village was haemorrhaging youth 20 years ago, it built 10 affordable homes occupied by young, local parents with children. The village school is now thriving, but a neighbourhood plan showed that recreational facilities were needed.

Hence the pavilion, and an 800m track around the field, which pupils walk before school. The school also uses the field for all its sporting activities.

"I think that because we are a village in the middle of nowhere, with no buses, we have ended up as a village with a strong community which makes its own entertainment and everything else," says council chair Nicki Barker.

"It (the pavilion and track) would absolutely not have been possible without the LEADER grant. The idea has been brewing for a while but had not been achievable."

Applicant: Buckland Newton Parish Council | Project name: Sports Pavilion and Phase 1 Recreation Facilities  
Grant £55K | LEADER Priority 4

***Why the Southern Dorset LAG funded this project:***

*Strengthens rural services ✓ Plans for future growth ✓ Creates Jobs ✓ Innovative ✓ Benefits to the wider rural economy ✓*

## Project 12 Row the Atlantic on a Dorset meal

THE biggest number of customers for Firepot meals is weekend campers, rather than polar explorers, says Chloe Battle. “But explorers buy a lot more for the Arctic. And our main market is Atlantic rowers.”

Firepot makes dehydrated meals in Bridport, cooked in ovens and dried for up to 16 hours to get moisture loss while maintaining texture. The pasta or rice is cooked separately, then mixed and when dry, packed and dispatched.

“Everything fresh is local,” says Chloe, who runs Firepot with founder John Fisher. “The meat comes from the butcher in Bridport, and the vegetables from Chideock – everything within five miles.”

The competition is mostly freeze-dried meals, a “much more aggressive” process which destroys the food’s structure, says Chloe. “Our meals have a good impact on morale: it is like cooking a normal meal.”



The business was set up in 2017 but was five years in the making, when John worked and hiked Nepal, Mongolia and Greenland. “We wanted hikes to be punctuated by slow-cooked, natural and delicious food. We wanted a healthy, hearty meal. And we couldn’t find it anywhere.”

He returned home to the Marshwood Vale and began his research. At first, the process was all manual: the cooking, drying, weighing, packing and labelling – then a LEADER grant hugely accelerated the process.

The £18,000 grant paid for a larger oven, labelling machine, packing machine and automated pouch sealer. Now 400 meals can be made in a day, including beef stew or mushroom risotto. The best seller is posh pork and beans, one-third of meals sold is vegan – and 20% choose a compostable bag option.

They are sold online, through independent outdoors firm Outkit and, as of this summer, through AMG Group whose brands include Rossignol (ski) and Vango (tents). The firm has given Firepot a contract to buy a massive 100,000 meals a year, rising to 300,000.

It will mean at least two more staff this year to complement the current team of four, while hugely benefitting local suppliers. “It is quite extraordinary,” said Chloe. We have gone in two years from using watering cans and putting on stickers to this. The grant completely changed everything.”

Applicant: Outdoorfood Ltd | Project name: Production Equipment Expansion

Grant £ 18K | LEADER Priority 2

***Why the Southern Dorset LAG funded this project:***

*Local products ✓ Plans for future growth ✓ Creates Jobs ✓ Innovative ✓*

*Benefits to the wider rural economy ✓*